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# Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 211

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31 December 1980

## WORLDWIDE REPORT

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WARNING ISSUED ON EXCESSIVE CHILD USE OF ANALGESICS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Oct 80 p 27

[Text] Canberra: The widespread use of analgesics by Australian schoolchildren has prompted the National Health and Medical Research Council to launch a teacher-education programme.

The council met in Canberra yesterday to issue a set of guidelines to schools because teachers were, in its view, giving out too many analgesics to children.

The council said that the high incidence of kidney disease in Australia was often associated with the excessive use of analgesics.

Professor Roland Thorp, the representative of the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations on the council said that analgesics should not be taken lightly, nor were they the type of drug people should take every day.

Information

"Teachers are promoting the idea that there is a tablet for everything and they often do so unwittingly," he said.

Dr Henry Kilhan said the information the council had been receiving over several years indicated that teachers were giving analgesics to children too often.

"We are mainly concerned about the promotion of the idea that if you have something wrong with you you take a tablet," Dr Kilhan said.

"The current generation of schoolchildren needs educating so that they will not become parents with bad habits when it comes to drugs."

There had been instances of parents putting aspirin in the lunch box of a child feeling a little off-colour before going to school, he said.

Professor Thorp said most people believed that they could get some sort of "high" from analgesics.

"That is a popular misconception, they have no such effect," he said.

In its guidelines to schools the council recommends that simple measures such as letting a child rest in a quiet room to get rid of a headache should be tried before analgesics are given.

The drugs should be administered for headache, toothache, earache, sore throat, sinusitis, influenza and other common illnesses causing fever.

However, they should not be given for pain after injuries--especially headache, chest or abdominal pains--or for bronchitis, asthma or other breathing difficulties.

CSO: 5400



BRIEFS

PERTH WATER POLLUTION--Anyone noticing a new colour or taste in water should notify the Metropolitan Water Board immediately, the Minister for Water Resources, Mr Mensaros, said yesterday. An average of two complaints a day were received by the water board during October, he said, and many consumers, particularly in the northern suburbs, had experienced bad tasting water. The board tested supplies with the Government Chemical Laboratory and the Public Health Department Results showed no threat to health. But it was necessary to take samples immediately any problem was noticed. The number to call is 328 6922. Mr Mensaros said that the warmer weather brought a bigger demand for water and increased the velocity of water in reticulation pipes. In many cases, the flow was reversed in interconnected systems. This stirred up fine, organic sediments, which were always present in reticulation pipes, and produced discolouration; bad taste and smell. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Oct 80 p 16]

WATER CONTAMINATION--The Victorian town of Healesville could face an outbreak of salmonella because of contamination of the town's water supply. Medical experts yesterday found traces of the faecal disease in the water supply, but it is not yet known what type of salmonella it is, and they say this is the major problem. Townspeople have been told to boil their water until further notice. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Oct 80 p 3]

FLU RESEARCH--Wiping out the dreaded flu bug is certainly not a job to be sneezed at. At least not for Kathy Fry and the research workers at Canberra's world famous John Curtin School of Medical Research. Miss Fry yesterday appeared to be suffering the effects of the contagious virus which plagues millions of Australians each year. But she was confident her fellow researchers in the school's Microbiology Department were slowly getting the upper hand in the battle to find an effective vaccine. Medical research into the composition of the bug has been going on for more than 10 years and, using genetic engineering technology, scientists hope to discover the components of each strain of flu and find an effective vaccine to combat it. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Oct 80 p 10]

CSO: 5400

BETTER CONTROL OF MONSOON EFFECTS URGED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Nov 80 p 7

[Editorial]

[Text] The effects of pollution on life and environment in a hot, humid and rain-fed country like Bangladesh can be severe. True, the 'sophisticated' fallout contaminations are yet out of our way and the atmosphere here is not extremely pallid or suffocating with back-water industrial discharges in the cities or the spewing out gases from the chimneys. But our worry lies in the sticky monsoon humidity which has harbouring and germinating potentials above the surface and along it as well.

From this standpoint, the work of the appropriately named Monsoon Region Environment Society (MONRES) is well worth watching. It has obviously a long way to go and a going thing it seems to be with a regional approach to obviate the incapacity of any individual monsoon-region country, resource poor as it is, to fight pollution singlehanded. The bacteria migrations have also been kept in view. The MONRES meeting at the Atomic Energy Commission has recommended an integrated strategy to control pollution. We take it that integration implies a comprehensive tackling of contaminating circumstances in a given environment. Thus defined, the approach calls for the evolution of a low-cost yet a sufficiently equipped technology to acquire a certain substance.

Industrial effluents and the backlashes of pesticide uses in agriculture have been subjects of customary debates for cogent reasons, but attention tends to fade on the questions of civic failings and the disposal system relating to biological and other putrid forms of waste. The gaping manholes of the underground sewers give out-lets for the toxic gases to slow-poison the environment already none-too-clean for other pollutants. The left-overs and animal carcasses on the lanes and by-lanes are spots so evidently vulnerable to the growth of bacteria.

Then there are the countryside menaces to be contained. The health, hygiene and pollution authorities must combinedly face the higher incidence of gastroenteritis leading cholera cases and the evidence of the return of malaria. Severe intestinal diseases which broke out in the northern zone have now reportedly spread to Chandpur. The hurtful Anopheles is said to have regenerated with immunity against the widely-used malarial antidotes.

The pure water supplies and the sanitary conditions in the villages cannot improve significantly without massive international and national involvements. But simultaneously, community participation is worth a try here for it would just be the other name for pollution and health awareness.

CSO: 5000

## BRIEFS

MEASLES KILLS SEVEN AROUND MOLEPOLOLE--An outbreak of measles has been reported in Molepolole and a medical team has been deployed to start an immunisation program against the outbreak. The disease has so far claimed seven lives in and around Molepolole since the beginning of last month. The Kweneng Regional Medical Officer, Mr K.M. Michaelson, said a considerable number of such cases has been discovered in Molepolole. He urged parents to bring their children for immunisation in Molepolole clinics and further announced that an attempt to spread medical officials to conduct immunisation programmes in wards far from the clinics is being arranged. Children between 9 and 24 months should be brought without fail to be immunised unless parents are sure their children have been already immunised against the disease. Parents are also requested to bring their medical cards along when they bring children to the medical centres. Mr Michaelson told the DAILY NEWS office in Molepolole that this week alone, 40 cases have been reported in Neal Memorial School and ten others in Bakwena National School. He further stated that many more cases would be reported because measles is common this time of the year. A spokesman in the Ministry of Health, who confirmed the existence of the disease in Molepolole and the number of the victims, said that the number of deaths caused by the disease could vastly be reduced if parents could be convinced to take their children to be vaccinated. According to the spokesman people have been reluctant to be vaccinated or overlooked the importance of vaccinations. Measles, which has been in existence in the country for a very long time is mainly confined to areas around Molepolole and the Ngamiland where small epidemics have been reported. The Ministry of Health is stepping up its efforts to eradicate it, but the spokesman said the end is not in-sight. [David Matshediso] [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 6 Nov 80 p 1]

CSO: 5000

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC REPORTED--Between 10 and 13 February 1980, a meningococic meningitis epidemic was detected at a children's home in Holice. Of the 22 children aged 1-3, four affected children had to be brought for treatment and isolation to a hospital in Hradec Kralove. A timely chemoprophylaxis at the children's home has prevented the spreading of the epidemic. [Prague CESKOSLOVENSKA EPIDEMIOLOGIE MIKROBIOLOGIE IMUNOLOGIE in Czech Oct 80 p 319]

CSO: 5400

## DESPERATE SITUATION AT TEACHING HOSPITAL DESCRIBED

Accra DAILY GRAPHIC in English 25 Nov 80 p 1

[Article by Breda Atta-Quayson]

[Excerpts] **THE nation's premier hospital, the Korte-Bu Teaching Hospital, is on the verge of collapse because of inadequate equipment and lack of essential drugs and manpower.**

The hospital is at present facing chronic shortages of sucker machines for operations, anti-malaria tablets, anti-rabies vaccines, crystalline penicillin, antiseptics and X-ray films.

Also not available at the hospital are infusions, chemicals for the laboratories, oxygen, mattresses and bedsheets.

Telephone facilities have also broken down for the past six months.

Dr K. O. Amuah, the Medical Administrator who disclosed this to me during a visit to the hospital yesterday said that the hospital has not got enough doctors to cope with the volume of work.

At the Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) of the hospital, the head of the department Mr G. A. Robson, told me that the Ultrasonic Cleaning Machines, the Autoclave, the Hot Air Ovens and the Infra-Red Machines for sterilizing special materials have all broken down.

He said the department also lacked abdomen sheets, paper towels, paper wrappers, sterilization bags and gowns which are very important for the smooth running of his department, the Surgical and the Gynaecology Theatres, the Polyclinic and the Labour Ward.

Professor Nkrumah said the department would soon stop admitting patients because the incubators for newly born and premature babies have broken down.

The head of the Department of Medicine, Professor J. O. M. Poku, sadly disclosed that there was no enough food for patients who have been admitted to the hospital.

He also said that the hospital has not got enough stationery to keep patients' records.



# MALARIA ON INCREASE IN INDIA, SOUTH ASIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Nov 80 p 4

[Text] Calcutta.

Malaria seems to have made a strong comeback in South Asia and its incidence in India, slowly but surely, has increased severalfold in recent years.

What is really alarming, is that the malaria that rages now in most countries of South and South-East Asia is of a new kind, like the spell of fatal influenza that took a heavy toll in Japan and the United States during the past couple of years.

It is of the cerebral type, the work of a parasite called plasmodium falciparum. This parasite is able to resist even quinine.

The symptoms of the new type of malaria are high temperature, like the Japanese encephalitis, probably the most dreaded killer-disease in North and North-East Asia to which no answer has yet been devised.

This parasite affects the working of the brain. The average fatality rate is very high. To date, the most effective medical deterrent (mefloquine) that has been found, however, does contain a strong element of a slightly uncommon type of quinine.

Medical circles in Calcutta point out that in India altogether 74 people died of malaria till September last. About 14 deaths were reported from West Bengal alone. It has left its trail of devastation and deaths in Malaysia, Turkey, Latin American countries, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the neighbouring South-East Asian countries, before it spread to India.

This type of malaria has been detected in 69 countries, affecting 62 per cent of their population.

Mefloquine has been tried successfully in India, following its good record in South East Asia as a "multiple resistant". [as published]

India's malaria eradication programme was highly successful between 1958 and 1965 when the incidence was reduced to 1,00,000 cases only. This remarkable success story ended abruptly in 1965, when the incidence increased to 6,94,647 in 1970, to 51,66,142 in 1975 and 58,30,000 in 1976.

Precautions prescribed officially for malaria are similar to those for encephalitis--spraying stagnant water sources with DDT and other insecticides, keeping rooms as brightly lit as possible and by maintaining a standard of cleanliness both inside and outside the house.

## TUBERCULOSIS PARLEY DISCUSSES PREVENTION METHODS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Nov 80 p 4

[Text] Tuberculosis every year takes the highest toll of life in the country--one million out of ten million sufferers--and is still the nation's number one health problem, the Maharashtra health minister, Dr. Baliram Hiray, told the 35th national conference on tuberculosis and chest diseases here today.

He stressed the need for the early detection of the disease and wanted more reliance to be placed on sputum examination rather than on X-ray plates to combat the scourge in a more determined way.

He said studies had shown that often TB was not detected even after six months of treatment. He wanted health education to be disseminated among the rural poor to stop the indiscriminate habit of spitting. While the medical profession was suitably oriented towards fighting the disease, he favoured domiciliary rather than institutional treatment.

Mr. Hiray pointed out that in Maharashtra, a large number of multi-purpose workers had been trained to diagnose the disease among patients but the state's resources were strained to the utmost. There were district TB centres in all the state's 26 districts.

## Grant May Be Raised

He announced that the government was considering enhancing the grant to the association. Later, he released a book authored by Dr. M. D. Deshmukh and lighted the traditional lamp to signal the inauguration.

The president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. R. K. Menda, said the control of TB and its prevention had to be carried on at several levels and that no single approach could bring about the desired results.

Hospitals, in his opinion, played a limited role and more often gave patients a false assurance of cure at the time of discharge. These patients mingled and lived among the public when they could be active carriers of the disease.

Even though TB thrived in low environmental conditions, it could spread among the upper classes in urban areas on account of the presence of sputum-positive cases among servants and cooks who live in their houses.



He mooted a vaccination programme to be undertaken on a war footing particularly covering the entire population up to 15 years of age because it had been definitely established that BCG greatly reduced TB incidence and other complications.

He felt that if proper services were organised like home delivery of chemotherapy, the control programme would be extremely successful.

"I do not see any better alternative to preventive and curative measures in a poor and developing country. All other methods are extremely expensive and impractical," Dr. Menda observed.

The medical superintendent of the Rajen Babu TB Hospital at New Delhi and professor in TB and chest diseases at Delhi University, Dr. M. M. Singh, said it was estimated that there were ten million TB cases evenly spread over 600,000 villages and 3,000 cities in the country. Nearly half the number of TB cases in the world were believed to be in India and nearly 2.5 million out of the national total constituted the infectious pool.

He said the national TB control programme, though considered scientifically sound and economically feasible and fulfilling the people's needs, was not receiving the needed support and supervision. Its implementation at the grassroots level had not been satisfactory and with this state of affairs TB control was not within sight.

#### Triple-Drug Regimen

He prescribed the use of the triple-drug regimen for at least 12 weeks in the beginning in all sputum positive cases followed by two drugs for 15 months to achieve higher success rate.

He agreed that progress in chemotherapy during the last decade has been phenomenal. With a good combination of bactericidal drugs it was possible to obtain quicker sterilisation of the lesion and hoped that the duration of treatment would be shortened to a few months.

The Maharashtra governor, Air Chief Marshal O. P. Mehra, appealed to the people of the state to make an earnest effort to increase the sale of TB seals in Maharashtra to make the TB control programme a success.

Among others who addressed the conference were the honorary technical adviser of the TB association, Dr. S. P. Pamra, Dr. M. D. Deshmukh, Dr. B. N. M. Barua and Mr. Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan.

Dr. N. C. Puri, former sheriff, read out messages from the Prime Minister, the vice-president and the chief minister and others.

Tomorrow, a scientific session on "Chemotherapy," to begin at 9 a.m. will be chaired by Dr. P. K. Sen and Dr. M. D. Deshmukh with Prof. R. Viswanathan, Dr. M. L. Mehrotra, Mr. K. D. Gautam, Prof. K. V. Krishnaswami and Dr. N. Sethuraman, Dr. H. B. Dingley, Dr. K. C. Mathur, Dr. R. Prabhakar and Dr. B. B. Surpal participating.

A second session, chaired by Dr. T. B. Master and Dr. M. L. Mehrotra, on "Drug toxicity and interaction will commence at 11.30 a.m. [as published]

# BOMBAY ASSOCIATION HOLDS LEPROSY SEMINAR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Nov 80 p 13

[Text] Multi-drug therapy in the treatment of leprosy compared to the use of mono-therapy or a single drug has been showing promising results, according to Dr. Manfred Dietrich, chief of the department of medicine at the Tropical Institute at Hamburg (West Germany). [as published]

He told a news conference here today that formerly the most favoured line of treatment was the use of single drug but leprologists were increasingly resorting to a combination of drugs which had brought encouraging results. [as published]

However, he said, the right combination had not yet been evolved chiefly because many of the drugs used in leprosy treatment were costly.

Dr. Dietrich expressed gratification at the opportunity of participating in a seminar on leprosy organised by the Greater Bombay Leprosy Eradication Association here tomorrow.

## City Patients

He said doctors the world over were doing research on the immunological aspect of leprosy.

Nevertheless doctors in tropical countries would have to continue treatment of lepers with chemotherapy and other supportive methods in their drive to stamp out the scourge.

Dr. R. Ganapati, director of the Bombay leprosy project, said there were nearly 82,000 patients in Bombay out of 3.2 million in the country afflicted with leprosy.

He said the German Leprosy Relief Association had allotted Rs. 3 crores for leprosy eradication projects for its 90 centres spread throughout the world. The lion's share of the allocation had gone to India where the incidence of the disease was the highest.

Mr. A. R. K. Pillai, public relations adviser of the association, said a large majority of people failed to recognise patients suffering from the more infectious variety of leprosy while travelling in trains or buses.

CSO: 5400

## BRIEFS

**ENCEPHALITIS SPREADS--**Burdwan, Nov. 11.--Spread of Japanese encephalitis has created a fear psychosis in many villages in Burdwan. Of the 25 cases reported till now eight have proved fatal. According to official sources, 14 villages in nine blocks have been affected. Memrai I and II, Aushgram, Manteswar, Jamalpur, Jamuria and Raniganj are the worst-hit blocks. Six cases, including one death, have been reported from the Burdwan municipality area. Japanese encephalitis has become a regular feature in Burdwan since 1973. Statistics show that the blocks from where a maximum number of cases were reported in previous years have been affected this year too. According to official sources, 307 cases out of 797 proved fatal last year. More than 260 villages in 23 blocks had suffered. UNI adds from Lucknow: Viral encephalitis has till now claimed 503 lives in Uttar Pradesh, according to official figures. The disease broke out in an epidemic form in the eastern districts of Deoria, Gorakhpur and Basti soon after the floods. There were 1,555 cases in all. The disease is reported to be on the decline now. While the worst-affected districts since last September were Gorakhpur, Deoria and Basti, isolated cases were reported from Bahraich, Gonda, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Ballia, Kheri, Moradabad, Sultanpur and Lalitpur districts, a spokesman of the State Health Directorate said in Lucknow today. [as published] [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Nov 80 p 16]

**ASSAM ENCEPHALITIS TOLL--**Gauhati, Nov. 17.--One hundred and thirty-four people out of 264 stricken by encephalitis, have died in five districts of Assam since August 26, according to an official release, reports UNI. [as published] The release, issued today said the highest number of cases reported (228) were from Dibrugarh. [as published] The remaining were reported from Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Kamrup and Darrang. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Nov 80 p 3]

**MYSTERY DISEASE--**Ferozepore, Nov 2 (UNI)--A mysterious fever raging in Abohar, near here has so far claimed eight lives. About 400 people were reported to have been affected by the fever that hit the town early this week, it was officially learnt. Meanwhile, the Punjab Government has deputed a team of experts to study the fever. The team was expected to file its report soon. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Nov 80 p 4]

ANTILEPROSY VACCINE--New Delhi, Nov. 11. Bombay's Cancer Research Institute (CRI) claims to have made a major breakthrough in the development of a vaccine against leprosy. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) here is sending a team of three top leprologists to CRI to verify its claim. According to CRI Director, Dr. M. G. Deo, the vaccine has been tested on 22 leprosy patients. The results of the clinical trial have demonstrated the feasibility of its use in man. He said CRI hoped to launch field trials soon, but cautioned "it would still need five-to-ten years before full impact of the anti-leprosy vaccine in man is appreciated." The source of the vaccine was a "mycobacteria", called ICRC-bacillus, isolated by CRI in 1958. The Institute has been growing the ICRC-bacillus since then in test tubes and in June 1969 isolated a new strain named "C-44". According to Dr. Deo, the vaccine was prepared by killing the C-44 strain of the ICRC bacillus using high dose of gamma rays. The vaccine thus made was safe and non-toxic, he said. Leprosy is caused by a myco-bacteria called "M-leprae". No vaccine has hitherto been made from "M-leprae" as these germs do not grow in test tubes.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Nov 80 p 16]

CSO: 5400

## INDONESIA

### BRIEFS

CHOLERA TOLL--Jakarta, 6 Dec (AFP)--Sixty-five people have died in four villages of Damai District in East Kalimantan (Borneo) from either cholera or a cholera-type disease in the past three months, the Jakarta daily PELITA (TORCH) reported today. The paper quoted a health service official as blaming the large toll to the remote location of the afflicted villages on the upper reaches of the Mahakam River, and lack of medicines in ready supply at the local district health clinic. The disease, locally called muntaber (short for diarrhoea and excessive vomiting), has also claimed 14 deaths since last July in Samarinda, the provincial capital on the Mahakam River mouth, the paper reported. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 6 Dec 80 BK]

CSO: 5400

IRAN

#### BRIEFS

OUTBREAK OF EPIDEMICS--According to our correspondents in Tehran and in some other southern and warm areas of the country, a number of [word indistinct] and El Tor [a type of cholera] victims have been reported, and this dangerous disease has spread. Our correspondents in Tehran, the west and southwest of the country report that due to the inattentiveness of the Ministry of Health officials and the lack of hygienic measures, as well as the chaotic situation which reigns over the country's health system, in Tehran and in many towns of the country epidemics such as [word indistinct] and cholera have been reported. The Free Voice of Iran informs the dear compatriots not to expect any steps to be taken by the government to stop such epidemics and to see to vaccinations and [word indistinct] themselves. [Text] [NC291734 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 29 Nov 80]

CSO: 3400

## BRIEFS

RAT BACTERIA IN POOLS--Dr Mohammed Zakaria, a specialist in epidemics in the Ministry of Public Health, has called for periodical tests of water from Kuwait's swimming pools to prevent a disease caused by the urine of rats. He said the disease, which could prove fatal, was spread by a bacteria originating from rats' urine. The chances of catching the disease was high for swimmers who frequent contaminated swimming pools. Common symptoms were high fever, headache, muscular pain and vomiting. The bacteria affecting the liver and blood could lead to internal bleeding. Though it was a fatal disease, the death rate had been low, he said. The incidence of disease had been confined to people and domestic animals who came in contact with water polluted by rats. [Text]  
[Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 6 Nov 80]

CSO: 5400



# SANITATION DEPARTMENT TAKES STEPS TO HALT CONJUNCTIVITIS EPIDEMIC

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 23 Sep 80 A3

[Text] It has been observed that a conjunctivitis epidemic has broken out and is spreading among people who live in the Vientiane capital and areas adjacent to the Mekong River.

Based on our investigation we think that this epidemic has come from the opposite bank via people who travel back and forth between the two banks to do trading. At the present time the epidemic is spreading. In order to halt the spread of this disease the Department of Sanitation and Disease Prevention announces the following points of advice for cadres, government officials, soldiers, police, and the public at large to follow:

1. Everyone should strictly carry out the "three cleans." In particular, for children of less than 5 years of age, their parents should pay attention to bathing them and washing their faces with clean water.
2. Anyone who contracts conjunctivitis should hurry to get treatment from a doctor; they should not disregard this because they are then carriers of the disease and can infect others with it.
3. Any school where a child comes down with conjunctivitis should take the child for treatment and keep him out of school.
4. Anything used by someone who contracts conjunctivitis, such as items of clothing, should be used by him exclusively.
5. Administrative authorities at all levels should pay attention to sanitation and environmental factors to destroy the breeding places of flies and gnats, such as damp, humid spots and sewage deposits, because these insects are carriers of the disease from infected persons to others.
6. Based on an order issued by the Minister of Public Health, travel by persons infected with conjunctivitis should now be restricted.

8947

CSO: 5400

## BRIEFS

PAKSE MALARIA--During mid-August doctors of the Sanitation and Disease Prevention Section of the Champassak Province Department of Public Health organized themselves to travel around to various production bases in order to carry out the main guideline of public health work which holds that "Treatment is important but disease prevention work is primary." During that period specifically in Ban Sok-amnuay, Photak Canton, Pakse District, they treated a number of people for malaria, examined blood samples of 492 people for evidence of malaria, dispensed anti-malaria drugs to more than 3,000 people sprayed DDT to kill mosquitoes at over 270 houses, examined 492 people for hypertrophy of the spleen and found it in 29 people. In addition they took with them films on sanitation and disease prevention for wide viewing by the populace. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 22 Aug 80 p A4] 8947

CHAMPASSAK MALARIA SEMINAR--In early August the Champassak Province Department of Public Health opened a seminar on prevention of diseases generally but particularly malaria for the doctors from hospitals in the 10 districts with 90 doctors attending. The purpose of the seminar is to raise the capability of doctors concerning sanitation and disease prevention in order to make the main guideline of public health work, that is "Treatment is important but disease prevention work is primary," become a reality. The seminar will run for 1 month. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 15 Aug 80 p A2] 8947

PAKSANG DDT SPRAYING--During the first 6 months of this year the doctors at the hospital in Paksong District of Champassak Province raised their status and role to that of revolutionary doctor in their treatment of the sick and protection of the health of the people in their district with affection and concern. In that period they provided prompt treatment to sick people both as hospital inpatients and outpatients. But besides that they organized themselves to go about spraying DDT throughout the district. One team had 4,524 families. They gave 12 lectures on the "three cleans" principles of sanitation attended by a total of 1,585 people and graduated 49 new sanitation fighters. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 7 Aug 80 p A5] 8947

LOUANG NAMTHA HEALTH WORK--Following a 6-month campaign to up-grade and improve efforts, that is from the first of the year to the end of May [sic], the treatment of the sick by doctors of the Louang Namtha Province branch hospital at Houei Sai District has been more effective than before and has caused sickness and disease among the multi-ethnic people of the district to drop noticeably.

During that period they provided hospital care to 443 persons, examined and injected or dispensed medicines to 16,627 persons, researched 609 virus cultures, and gave examinations to and assisted 58 mothers to give birth. They also sent mobile teams out to serve the people in agricultural cooperatives and production bases throughout the area and gave inoculations against cholera, smallpox, and tetanus to 10,242 persons, gave inoculations against polio, whooping cough, and diphtheria to 1,416 children and gave 8 lectures on the "three-cleans" principles of sanitation attended by 3,637 persons. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 22 Aug 80 p A2] 8947

CSO: 5400

## BRIEFS

POLIO PROGRAM EXTENDED--Karonga, Tuesday--In preparation for the launching of anti-polio programme next year in some districts in the Northern Region, Save the Children Fund cold-chain technician, Mr. Steven Frost on Sunday visited Karonga District Hospital and held discussions with hospital staff on existing cold-chain facilities at the hospital. Mr. Steven Frost said in an interview that anti-polio programme is expected to be extended to the North next year and begin on a date to be fixed. He added that his visit therefore aimed at determining what cold-chain facilities existed at district hospitals. He said he was impressed with the cold-chain knowledge hospital staff possessed in this field. "Their knowledge will really facilitate the programme's success," he said. Anti-polio programme was launched in the country by the Minister of Health last April in the Lower Shire where, Mr. Frost observed, 81-per-cent of the children population had been vaccinated. From there, Mr. Frost proceeded to Chitipa on a similar visit.--MANA [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 3 Dec 80 p 7]

CSO: 5400

## MALARIA SPREADING INTO URBAN AREAS OF SARAWAK

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 25 Oct 80 pp 1, 2

[Text]

**KUCHING** — A serious outbreak of malaria is feared by the Sarawak Medical Department in three of the state's main towns.

So far this year 683 cases of the disease have been recorded in Kuching, Sibu and Bintulu — towns that have been comparatively free of the disease in recent years.

Of these 683 cases 210 have been foreigners and 23 are from crowded housing development schemes in Matang Road, Stampin, Batu Kawa and Poh Kwong Park, all close to the state capital.

Now the department has decided to send medical teams specializing in malaria to Sibu and Bintulu from Kuching on a monthly basis to try and check the spread of the disease.

It also hopes to educate people living on housing estates and near development schemes in the three centres to be on the alert for malaria and to get rid of stagnant pools and other places that can breed mosquitoes.

Malaria-carrying mosquitoes have already been detected in all three towns in recent years these mosquitoes have

been almost exclusively confined to rural areas with urban areas being malaria free.

The Medical Department blames in part the spread of the disease on transient workers, mainly on timber camps, who have arrived in Kuching, Sibu and Bintulu from malaria-affected areas in Peninsular Malaya or the Sabah and Sarawak border areas with Kalimantan.

With Bintulu particularly attracting hundreds of workers for the high-paid jobs in the construction industry there has been little chance to carry out intensive medical examinations and so malaria carriers have slipped through the net.

But in an attempt to remedy this problem the department has urged all timber camp operators building contractors and developers to report all employees from the border areas and Peninsular Malaya to the divisional medical office.

If an employee is a malaria carrier he can be treated to cure the dis-

ease and prevented from spreading it through mosquitoes to other people.

The department has also suggested anyone suffering from a high fever, chills, vomiting, tiredness or weakness, should call at a government hospital or clinic to check if they have contracted malaria.

Last year the state recorded less than 1,000 cases of malaria but most were from rural and border areas with only a very few being detected in towns.

In April last year the state's Medical Director, Dr Tan Yaw Kwang, said the troubled areas were those on the border with Sabah and Kalimantan.

Dr Tan said it was the department's aim to cut the malaria rate to about one in every 1,000 people; this roughly equals the present figure but the cases are now being detected in denser population areas than previously.

At the same time Dr Tan mentioned the discovery of a resistant malaria strain but said it had fortunately been confined to border areas of the Fourth and Fifth divisions.

## HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Oct 80 p 10

[Text] The Revolutionary Government is putting the final touches on a plan for a historical vaccination campaign by the Ministry of Health, having as its goal the complete eradication of the dreadful poliomyelitis, a perennial scourge of our childhood.

The first step will be to vaccinate one-half million children. This historic campaign will begin in January 1981, to be completed in February of the same year.

The campaign will be carried out jointly with the mass organizations.

The Public Health Service will first conduct a sampling to determine the level of antibodies attained against polio and measles among members of the population under age 15.

This sampling will be made before the end of 1980 for the first time in Nicaragua. Poliomyelitis is the characteristic scourge of destitute children in the oppressed countries of our America, due to the subhuman conditions under which millions of our little children live.

In Latin America, only Cuba has managed to eradicate the calamity of polio.

Costa Rica is a country that has succeeded in controlling the disease, but has not eradicated it.

This tremendous task is being undertaken in Nicaragua (in its preparatory stages) by Dr Jaime Manzanares, in charge of Epidemiology; Dr Alcides Gonzalez, in charge of Disease Control; and Dr Vilma Guzman, in charge of Immunizations.

### Forty Thousand Antipolio Doses Due To Arrive

The comrades cited above also made known that 40,000 doses of antipolio vaccine are due to arrive to be distributed immediately to public health centers throughout the country.

They explained that while it is true that the public health centers do not have antipolio vaccines at present, this is due to the fact that the reserve lot now available is about to become outdated and it was decided not to use it because it is not considered to have a powerful immunizing effect against the disease.

This decision was taken on the basis of the view of the World Health Organization's officials that after observing the situation it does not pose a danger to children at this time.

The sources of the information reported that authorization to keep on buying and using antipolio vaccines has been taken away from private clinic doctors because many of these physicians were indulging in "self-publicity" and wheeling and dealing with the children's needs.

Nevertheless, the Public Health Service will discuss the possibility of supplying some doctors with antipolio vaccine, under the condition that they cooperate with the National Health System, managing an effective vaccination and reporting system that will facilitate statistical control of the disease.

#### Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Vaccines

As of now, the same sources reported, 667,000 doses of Infant's D.T. vaccine, for use against diphtheria and tetanus, have arrived, which will be used for children between 6 and 9 years of age.

Another 100,000 doses of vaccine against typhoid are due to arrive for use throughout the remainder of 1980.

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## NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNAL MEDICINE HELD

OWO41522 Beijing XINHUA in English 1509 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Guangzhou, 4 Dec (XINHUA)--China's biggest national symposium of internal medicine opened here today with a review of present progress in clinical and laboratory work and basic research.

Zhong Hulan, specialist in tropical medicine and vice-chairman of the Chinese Medical Association, gave the opening report on behalf of the Society of Internal Medicine. Attending are well over 900 specialists representing the country's major medical colleges, hospitals and research centers.

Eight-year-old Professor Zhong summed up work on infectious, parasitic, cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory, endocrine and metabolic, renal and other disorders.

Such virulent infectious diseases like smallpox, rampant in old China, have been eliminated. The incidence of endemic diseases, such as schistosomiasis and filariasis, which affect tens of millions in south and north China, has been brought down. New effective and less toxic drugs have proved helpful in dealing with schistosomiasis. Mortality from toxic dysentery is now 1 percent, as against 20-30 percent in the early post-liberation period; that of fulminating epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis is below 10 percent as against the previous 60-70 percent.

Enzyme analysis to diagnose hepatitis has advanced rapidly in recent years. The search for vaccines against hepatitis B and epidemic encephalitis is promising.

Cardio-vascular diseases are now receiving more attention. Large-scale surveys have been made and more up-to-date testing methods are being used on a wider scale. The incidence and mortality of cerebral hemorrhage has been lowered.

Integration of traditional Chinese medicine which stimulates the patient's vital energy and blood circulation with Western therapies has increased the chances in reviving a failing heart, the report said. The incidence and death rate of cardiogenic shock has come down.

Indirubin obtained from a Chinese medicinal herb (*Indigo pulvraya levis*) has proved of help in combating blood cancer (chronic granulocytic leukemia). According to a study of 314 cases treated in more than 50 hospitals in different parts of the country, more than half of the patients show improvement. Derivatives of artemisinin are effective for control of drug-resistant malaria. Introduction of the new pentapeptide gastrin has improved diagnosis of peptic ulcer and others. Colonoscopy is now in use.

Collecting cells from the esophagus, a method worked out by a Chinese doctor, is simple, sensitive and reliable way to detect early-stage cancer by mass screening in high-incidence areas. Incidence and mortality of tuberculosis and severe pulmonary heart diseases have been brought down due to advanced treatment. A nationwide check-up of more than 300,000 people to detect diabetes was completed in 14 provinces and cities in 1978-1979. Studies of human leucocyte antigen (HLA) and insulin receptor are going on. Large-scale check-ups of endemic goitre have been carried out. The wide supply of iodized salt in the affected areas has proved effective as a preventive measure.

## THAILAND

### MALNUTRITION RATES, EFFECTS DESCRIBED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 4 Oct 80 p 4

[Article by Sanguan Nittayaramphong: "The Problem of Malnutrition In Children: Regardless of What Is Done, Things Stay the Same"]

[Text] It has been said that the most valuable resource is people. People can create and build many things. The problem is whether or not these people whom the country depends on really have the qualities and goodness hoped for.

Whether or not the people have these good qualities depends on many things but there are two factors that are of greatest importance:

a. Good health must be fostered beginning when the child is still in the mother's womb because this is when the brain begins to develop. Whether the child grows to be an intelligent person capable of learning or is stupid and slow at learning various things depends on the food eaten while the brain is developing. The most important time is prior to birth and during the first 1 to 2 years after birth.

b. Education: Some Western countries can proudly boast that almost all of their citizens have good quality because the last uneducated person in the country died 50 years ago. At that same time, there were uneducated people everywhere in Thailand.

It is shocking to learn that 68.6 percent of the children in Thailand suffer from malnutrition, or a lack of the essential nutrients, during the [period] their brains and bodies are growing. This is especially prevalent among children who live in the slums of the capital and in the rural areas. In particular, in the northeast the figure reaches 72.75 percent. Stated simply, if we walk around a village in the northeast or walk around the Khlong Toei slum [in Bangkok], of every four children we meet, we can say that three of them suffer from malnutrition and this will lead to their becoming dull people in the future. If this problem is not solved immediately, in the future, how can things in a developing country like Thailand improve when most of the people are not intelligent?

Mrs Saisuri Chuttikun, the deputy secretary general of the Office of the National Education Commission, stated in an address that less than 1 percent of the Thai children who suffer from malnutrition have received help from the various sectors. From the studies made, it has been learned that the primary and lower secondary school children in the 16 northeastern provinces are slow learners and 10 percent fail the examinations. This has wasted 1.057 billion baht.

It can be seen that this very serious problem of malnutrition can only lower the quality of the people. Besides this, it causes the children to be tired. They are frequently sick and the death rate is higher among these children than it is among children who do not suffer from malnutrition. This is a loss of a resource and an economic loss for the country.

In the past, even though some people have become aware of this problem and tried to find ways to solve it, as the deputy secretary general of the Office of the National Education Commission has said, less than 1 percent of these children have received help from the various sectors. And even though some private sectors have begun to show interest and to provide help to solve this problem -- for example, there is the Hungry Children's Program and the Malnourished Children's Program of the Children's Foundation -- the remaining 99 percent of the children must continue to endure this fate and they are a link that has an unavoidable effect on the development of the country.

Will the government or some other sector take a greater interest in this problem before the future of most of the people in our country is such that their bodies and minds are weak and the country cannot be developed?

11943

CSO: 5400

## THAILAND

### SYPHILIS-LIKE DISEASE SPREADS IN FLOOD SEASON

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Doctors Warn People About Danger of Disease From Flood Waters. A 'Syphilis-Like' Disease Is Spreading. It Is Spread By Water, and Death May Result"]

[Text] Doctors are warning people about wading in the flood water since, at present, they may contact a potentially fatal disease similar to syphilis. Rats are the carriers of this disease.

Dr Manun Phobun, the secretary general of the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand, has stated that during periods of heavy rainfall, people should be careful of contacting leptospirosis, a disease that is in the same group as syphilis. Besides this, people must be careful of parasites that can be contacted from water animals and of athlete's foot.

Dr Manun stated that rats are carriers of this disease. It can also be spread by other animals such as dogs, cats, cows, buffalos and pigs. The bacteria is released in the urine of the animals and is spread by water. The bacteria can penetrate the skin of people who wade in the water, especially those parts of the skin where there are cuts. The disease matures in the body for 1 or 2 weeks. The symptoms are sudden high fever, soreness throughout the body, especially in the leg and hip muscles, red eyes and nausea. If the disease is not treated in time, serious effects such as subcutaneous bleeding in the mouth, intestines and stomach may result. It may also destroy other systems of the body and result in death.

Dr Manun also stated that people frequently contact this disease during the rainy season and most who do contact the disease are people who frequently come in contact with wet conditions and who walk in dirty water.

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## BRIEFS

IZMIR JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC REPORTED--During examinations conducted by Izmir Health Department teams in elementary and intermediate schools, it was determined that one of every 1000 children has jaundice. According to information obtained by a Turkish News Agency reported from the Izmir Province Health Department, since positive results have not been forthcoming from the campaign being waged against the jaundice which appeared in epidemic proportions in Izmir and vicinity 20 days ago, a wide-scale cleanup campaign will be initiated in the city. It has been learned that the campaign will be conducted through cooperation between the governor's office and the municipality. Aegean University Medical School faculty member Prof Dr Avni Aktug stated in an announcement that the number of those contracting the disease is increasing every day. He said, "If it keeps on like this it will get out of control." Aktug has proposed that cleanup and sanitation operations be initiated posthaste in government offices, major institutions, public restrooms, and, in particular, schools. It is reported that while health team examinations have determined that one of every 1000 elementary and intermediate students have jaundice, 80 percent of those persons reporting to Izmir hospital clinics--especially the one in the children's hospital--are also jaundiced. [Text] [Istanbul MILLI GAZETE in Turkish 3 Dec 80 p 5]

CSO: 5400



**SHEEP, LAMB FLOCKS HIT BADLY BY DROUGHT**

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Oct 80 p 26

[Text] Canberra: Australia's sheep and lamb flock will fall by about six million on this year's numbers because of drought, according to the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation.

The corporation's chairman, Mr R. G. Jones, said yesterday that the drought in eastern Australia would cut the national cattle herd and sheep flock over the next few years.

Lamb numbers were expected to drop to about 130 million head by March 31 from an estimated 135.7 million this year.

But if the drought ended and flocks were rebuilt they would reach about 139 million head by 1985.

If this were not achieved and slaughtering continued at present rates, the sheep flock would stabilise at 130 million.

Cattle and calf numbers were expected to be about 2.5 per cent down on this year--a fall of about 600,000 to 25.7 million in March.

**Sensitive**

Mr Jones said that sheep and cattle were extremely sensitive to seasonal conditions and the corporation's forecasts assumed a better season next year.

The forecasts had been assessed during a meeting of the corporation, its producer consultative group, agriculture departments, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Australian Wool Corporation.

The drought had caused spring lambing to fall to 60 per cent, compared with 70.4 per cent in the year to last March.

CSO: 5400

# VACCINE ERROR BEHIND FATAL CANINE DISEASE

## Thousands of Dogs Affected

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Oct 80 p 1

[Article by Malcolm Andrews and Helen Trinca: "Scientists Fear Virus Catastrophe"]

[Text]

A LABORATORY mix-up may have caused a disease which has killed thousands of Australian dogs in recent months.

And experts say a similar mix-up could cause a catastrophic plague among humans.

They believe the disease - parvovirus - has been transmitted by mistake around the world in a vaccine used against other dog viruses.

It has reached frightening proportions in all of eastern States of Australia and is now appearing in other areas, including Western Australia and South Australia.

The researchers say it may be a mutant cat virus - an inexplicably abnormal variation of a known disease.

In Sydney, worried RSPCA veterinarians are checking animals three times a day to try to halt the virus' spread.

Parvovirus suddenly appeared about two years ago.

The experts believe it may have been grown in a laboratory by accident when a cat virus got into dog cells and then into dog vaccine.

A similar slip in a laboratory which prepares vaccines for animals and humans could have tragic results, leading virologists said yesterday.

A mutant virus, to which the human body had no known resistance, could cause havoc. A particularly virulent form could kill hundreds of people before an antidote was found.

Many laboratories, in Australia and overseas, make vaccines and medicines for humans as well as animals.

And although they boast stringent controls, mistakes do happen.

The Commonwealth Health Department has recalled dozens of drugs in recent months because of laboratory mistakes.

They include one drug which was incorrectly packaged and phials of insulin which were dangerously too strong.

Parvovirus is not restricted to this country.

Its appearance here in 1978 coincided with epidemics in Europe, North America and South Africa.

Australia's strict quarantine laws ruled out the possibility of it being transmitted from animal to animal.

So scientists came up with the theory of it spreading through a vaccine.

Professor Margaret Sabine of Sydney University, said yesterday that extensive research was needed to prove this theory, accepted by most of the world's leading authorities.

But, she said, it sounded a warning for extra care in laboratories where both human and animal vaccines were made.

Both Sydney University and the James Cook University at Townsville have been conducting extensive research into the disease.

Parvovirus causes vomiting and diarrhoea and is fatal in up to 10 per cent of cases.

The Sydney RSPCA Dogs Home has been sending samples from dead animals to both Sydney and James Cook Universities for analysis.

FOOTNOTE: The laboratory run by Professor Sabine, which first diagnosed the disease, is in danger of closing down. Research funds provided by the NSW Government run out in December.



## Potential Use on Dingoes

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 30 Oct 80 p 11

[Text] The disease canine parvovirus, which has killed thousands of dogs in eastern Australia, could save the grazing industry millions of dollars a year by reducing wild dog populations, a grazier spokesman said yesterday.

It could become a major biological tool against dingoes — like the introduced virus myxomatosis which eliminated rabbit plagues in south-eastern Australia during the early 1950s.

North Queensland grazier, Mr Gerry Collins, of Mount Surprise, at the base of Cape York, said in Brisbane yesterday the virus could eliminate the need for the dingo barrier fence.

Estimates of calf losses to dingoes range up to 30 percent, with lamb losses even higher each year.

Mr Collins said that because of the spread of the virus among domestic dogs along the eastern

seaboard — and now reported in western and southern Australia — all pets and working dogs soon would have to be vaccinated.

"If the virus did not reach dingo-infested areas, it could be spread by air or some other method into the wild dog population", he said.

Mr Collins, the United Graziers' Association's cattle committee chairman, said dingoes were a major and growing problem for sheep and cattlemen.

The virus could be an ideal control medium. He said its culture and spread into the dingo population — if it did not happen naturally — should be considered by the state's Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board.

## Vaccine Costs

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Ted Knez: "Fight Against Rogue Dog Disease Costing Millions of Dollars"]

[Excerpt] The fight against the rogue dog virus sweeping the country has cost \$5.6 million in serum alone.

But serum makers estimate the figure will double before the epidemic is over.

Vaccine against the disease, parvovirus, is costly. Although drug firms find it difficult to meet local demand they are exporting batches to other countries where the disease has broken out.

The epidemic is expected to be one of the costliest in veterinary history.

Though serum alone has so far cost pet owners more than \$5 million, the total cost of veterinary treatment, which ranges from \$60 to \$100, is inestimable.

One big drug company, Arthur Webster Pty Ltd, has produced more than 400,000 doses of vaccine which vets administer for \$14 a dose.

The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories this week began making the vaccine to keep up with demand.

## IMPACT OF DROUGHT, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISCUSSED

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 18 Nov 80 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt]

President Dr. G.K.J. Masire yesterday told Parliament that Botswana's most serious short-term problems have been those of drought, which has affected the country for the two crop seasons, and foot and mouth disease, which occurred in 1977 and 1978, and again in February this year.

This was President Masire's first address of Parliament as President of Botswana.

Dr Masire revealed that the drought conditions have resulted in serious loss of crop production in most areas of the country, and total crop failures occurred in some areas with good rains, due to late planting.

Not only has drought reduced rural incomes seriously, but it has also increased the need to import seed. Fortunately, said the President, the seed situation is fairly good for the present season, and early distribution to all parts of the country has been possible.

In May last year, Dr Masire recalled, the entire country was declared stricken, and emergency measures were undertaken. This was particularly important in the light of the effects of foot and mouth disease which had affected cash incomes in large areas of Botswana since late 1977.

The total spending on drought relief in the past months is over P6 million. The effort has involved many ministries and "we have been assisted in our efforts by several international agencies. In addition to relief on various Government fees and the distribution of food, government has sponsored livestock auctions and undertaken measures to generate cash in the areas most seriously affected," Dr Masire told Parliament.

President Masire further told the National Assembly that at the time of the first outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 1977, Government undertook several emergency measures to assist those in the affected areas.

As a result of successful vaccination campaigns, it was possible this year to market cattle for slaughter once again from Makalamabedi, and Boteti, Letlhakane and Nata areas of the Central District, which had been closed for nearly three years, he said.

Government organised, supervised and ran, in collaboration with private transporters, the marketing of over 25 000 slaughter cattle from these areas to the BMC.

Dr Masire said he would emphasise that the cooperation of the cattle owners of the affected areas in vaccinating their cattle and abiding by the stock movement regulations is what made the recent opening of those areas possible.

"I mention this because the most recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease early this year in the Serule area, occurred because people did not cooperate fully," said the President.

The latest outbreak was the first in the area for more than 20 years and resulted in the suspension of our meat exports to the valuable European markets. It has stopped the marketing of cattle to the BMC from a large area of the country, Parliamentarians heard.

"It is most important that cattle owners should cooperate fully in the vaccination campaigns. Farmers should ensure that their animals are presented for vaccination when requested," the President urged.

Parliamentarians also learn all over again, how the presence of drought and foot and mouth disease has decreased incomes of our citizens, and has required large outlays of public funds for relief purposes. In addition to these financial problems in the current year, Botswana has experienced and acceleration of inflation and reduction in the purchasing power of our exports.

These external events have once again led us to revalue the Pula against all major currencies in an effort to distribute equitably the burden imposed on Botswana by events beyond our control, the President said.

## BRIEFS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT BAN--The ban on livestock movement between the railway line and Makoba-Dukwi Cardon fence and the Palapye area has been lifted for limited movements or grazing and ploughing only. The Serowe Veterinary Officer, Veterinary expert M.K. Mosienyane announced this week. It has been confirmed by the Veterinary finding that foot and mouth disease was completely under control in these areas. Mr Mosienyane said in the last four vaccinations the departments had never found any cases but only scarrs. He said the movement of cattle is allowed only on permits, while that of small livestock, horses and donkeys does not need any permit. Mr Mosienyane said his department was on the verge of wiping out the disease completely, depending on the cooperation of farmers. Meanwhile Serowe Game Warden Mr A. Kgwarae disclosed this week that the hunting season has terminated. He urged all hunters in Serowe to surrender their registered licence returns to the Wild Life offices. Mr Kgwarae said any license not used must also be surrendered. Other villages in the Central District will be notified about the date on which the Department will collect licenses from hunters, he said. [Mishingo Mphapadzi] [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 13 Nov 80 p 1]

CSO: 5400

# RESEARCHER REPORTS THREAT OF RIFT VALLEY FEVER TO CATTLE INDUSTRY

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 15 Sep 80 p 3

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd al-Maqsud: "Egyptian Scientist Warns: 'A severe epidemic threatens our animal resources.'"]

[Text] Dr Thuna' Ibrahim Baz, a researcher at the Zoological Research Institute, asserted that there is a serious disease afflicting calves and cattle called Rift Valley fever. It kills the animals if they have not been vaccinated within a specific time. It is a disease which comes from abroad, and the fact that this disease is transmitted from the animals to man, increases the danger of the situation. Several veterinarians have died because of the infection being transmitted to them.

The Egyptian researcher warned that every minute which passes without precautions being taken means that the disease spreads further, livestock is destroyed and men are exposed to the danger.

## Swift Action Required

The Egyptian researcher asserted that the situation is serious and that it is necessary to intervene immediately in order to save the Egyptian economy and its animal resources, because the disease is spreading at an increasingly faster rate. However, the Ministry of Agriculture attempted to conceal the facts, which constitutes a great crime in terms of science and responsibility. Dr Baz is demanding immediate announcement and publication whenever the disease appears in any area, in order to take measures to ensure it is contained and to prevent its spread.

Dr Thuna' Baz said that this disease will result in a rapid, continuous and serious decline in meat production and a severe shortage of calves because they are infected with serious endemic diseases such as tuberculosis, pulmonary diseases, worms, cirrhosis of the liver, other blood diseases, splenitis, subcutaneous vesicle disease and "vaginal fever."

## "They Prevented Me from Conducting the Experiments"

In the 1979 statistics, the number of cases reached 88,000 head, weighing more than 18,000 kilograms of meat, in addition to the shortage of vaccine. Dr Thuna' Baz says: "Some of the specialists are fighting me because I am fighting the virus which threaten the downfall of animal resources in Egypt. They deprived me of my laboratory and turned it into a room for laboratory rats, which transmitted the disease to wild rats, which in turn transmitted it to humans and animals. They

confiscated all of the equipment in the laboratory, and the director of the virological diagnosis section, Sa'd 'Abd al-Ghafar, forbade me to run my tests and finish injecting the animals with the vaccine to immunize them from the disease. He submitted a scientifically erroneous plan to the Minister of Agriculture. After this plan was carried out the disease spread in one month.

At the end of her conversation with me the Egyptian researcher said: "I am protesting loudly--'Stop this outrage before it gets out of control!' Help me get my laboratory back. I have studied 18 years in Cairo and America for this specialty. In a report to the administrative supervisor's office I am attesting that they are slowing down the vaccine laboratories themselves and are not observing the simplest medical principles in the treatment."

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CSO: 5400

## DOG TIE-UP ORDERS ISSUED TO PREVENT RABIES

### Mzuzu Town

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 25 Nov 80 p 5

[Text] Mzuzu, Monday --All unvaccinated, unlicensed and stray dogs within 6.4 kilometre (four-mile) radius of Mzuzu will be shot dead between 25th and 28th November.

A Regional Veterinary Office spokesman here announced in a press release that a tie-up order will also be in force during this period, "all dogs will be required to be under strict chain control day and night."

The spokesman said that all unvaccinated puppies which are a month old or above should be vaccinated against rabies, a fatal disease to human beings.

The spokesman further warned that "any dog in default of this ruling is liable to destruction."

This means that a dog that has been vaccinated, but has not been licensed with the Municipal Council will be shot dead even if it is chained, clarified a spokesman of the Mzuzu Town Council in a phone interview.

Licences, which are available from the Council offices at 75 tambala per dog, can only be obtained on production of a vaccination certificate issues free of charge when a dog has been vaccinated.--MANA

### City of Blantyre

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 1 Dec 80 p 5

[Excerpts] Rabies tie-up order will be enforced in Blantyre City from December 1st to December 31 this year.

Announcing the tie-up order, a spokesman for the Regional Veterinary Office in Blantyre asked all dog-owners to tie-up their dogs for 24 hours each day during the dates mentioned below: [Here follows a list of districts and dates.]

The spokesman warned that any dog found roaming about freely will be shot dead after blowing the whistle twice to warn the public.



All unvaccinated dogs from the age of three months and above will be vaccinated against rabies in the areas written above and at the District Veterinary Office, Chichiri, he said.

The spokesman pointed out that it was an offence to keep unvaccinated dogs which were susceptible to rabies infection and were therefore dangerous to the lives of the community.--MANA

CSO: 5400

## BRIEFS

WARNING ON AVOIDING VACCINATIONS--A vaccination exercise against livestock diseases has been launched in the Birnin Kudu Local Government area of Kano State. This was contained in a statement issued recently from the area. The statement said that the Head of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the local government, Malam Jibir Mohammed Lawal, called on the people of the area to bring their cows, sheep and goats for vaccination. The statement then quoted the Senior Livestock Superintendent in the area, Alhaji Ibrahim Wudil, as saying that some people had cultivated the habit of hiding their livestock during such exercises in the past because of cattle tax. The senior livestock superintendent, the statement went on, appealed to cattle owners in the area to cast aside their colonial practice and come out for the vaccination exercise as cattle tax has since been abolished. It further said that the Councillor for health in the area, Alhaji Abdulkarimi Suleiman, also made a similar appeal at the launching of the exercise. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 18 Nov 80 p 15]

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FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK REQUIRES VACCINATION PROGRAM

Outbreak in Anzoategui

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Oct 80 p 2-26

[Text] El Tigre, 11 Oct--INDAC, J.R. Hernandez--MAC (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) is implementing a vaccination campaign in the countryside of the southern region of Anzoategui State where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was discovered.

"We are going to control that source," veterinarian Simon Farcheg, head of the MAC office in this city, noted.

He said, however, that the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease located on a farm near Tank Farm is not of a serious nature.

"We are in the process of vaccinating all the cattle of the herds located within this jurisdiction in southern Anzoategui." Dr Juan Simoza, veterinarian working for this office, is carrying out the vaccination, the head of MAC observed finally.

Vaccination Program in Lara

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Oct 80 p D-6

[Text] Barquisimeto, 7 Oct (special)--The large-scale vaccination of cattle and the prohibition on movement of livestock in the region affected with foot-and-mouth disease in Urdaneta District in Lara State have been stepped up, according to the MAC (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock).

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was discovered on farms located in Aguada Grande involving some 200 head of cattle and sanitary measures appropriate in such cases are being taken.

"Large-scale vaccination of all the cattle in the region is under way. Similarly, for a while the movement of animals in the entire region will be prohibited until absolute control of the situation is achieved and the danger of contagion disappears," Dr Ali Yopez, MAC's regional director, said.

Furthermore, he announced that a "cordon sanitaire" has been extended in the affected zone in Urdaneta District and that all rigorous control measures are being taken, especially on farms where the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease was detected.

For that purpose a group of veterinarians is working actively to control the situation at the same time that the causes of the infection are being sought.

#### Outbreak in Lara

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Oct 80 p 2-22

[Text] Barquisimeto, 6 Oct--INNAC--An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has been found among more than 200 head of cattle in Urdaneta District in Lara State.

The information was provided by Orlando Ramos, coordinator of livestock development in the MAC (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) in the region.

The MAC official said that symptoms of foot-and-mouth stomatitis and vesicular stomatitis have been observed in more than 200 head of cattle in this livestock-producing zone of Lara State.

The outbreak is located on three farms of Aguada Grande and the coordinator of livestock development of MAC noted that specimens have been sent to the National Center of Agricultural and Livestock Research in Maracay for appropriate analysis.

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## RESEARCHERS SEEK MONGOOSES FOR RABIES PROJECT

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 3 Dec 80 p 13

[Text]

A FIELD officer from the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Salisbury, Mr Basil Petzer, is in Bulawayo to catch mongooses for a rabies research project.

He has brought cages with him, and plans to stay a fortnight making the Government veterinary offices his headquarters.

Mr Petzer hopes to catch 100 mongooses — but so far hasn't had much luck. Dr J. O. E. Rodger, Provincial Veterinary Officer, said yesterday.

He needs the co-operation of property owners in whose grounds, or neighbourhood mongooses can be found, Dr Rodger said.

Dr Chris Foggin, head of the rabies research exercise at the laboratory, said the probe includes jackals as well as mongooses.

The jackal research was being done with the assistance of the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management. Blood slides could be obtained from jackals killed by the department's "coyote-getter" traps.

Jackals were known to spread rabies to dogs, cattle and other animals. But it was not known whether "mongoose rabies" was transmitted to

other animals.

Three years ago there was an outbreak of rabies in mongooses in Bulawayo — it did not spread to other animals.

"We want to know whether mongoose rabies is a different form of rabies — and possibly a less dangerous form," Dr Foggin said.

The researchers will be looking at blood slides to see whether Bulawayo mongooses have been exposed to rabies.

If a significant proportion of mongooses have had rabies and survived, the strain could be less severe than had been supposed.

"It might be that we can forget about mongoose rabies as a source of spreading the disease, though mongooses behaving in a strange way must be treated with extreme caution," he said.

Matabeleland was getting on top of the rabies menace by well-mounted vaccination campaigns "but we still have a tremendous amount of rabies in other parts of the country," Dr Foggin added.

## GUATEMALA

### BRIEFS

DESTRUCTION OF PINE FORESTS--The extermination of woodpeckers has brought about a proliferation of the "pine weevil," which is decimating entire stands of conifers in various regions of the country. "Do we have a right to destroy these forests with the pretext of the weevil?" Attorney Mario Dary asked at a regular session of the Council of State. Dary asserted that the pine weevil has always existed and that its proliferation is caused by the fumigation for the cultivation of cotton which killed off the woodpeckers which maintained the balance of nature by feeding on these weevils. The Guatemalan ecologist also reported to the Council of State that "unscrupulous persons have taken the pine weevil to conifer forests, where that little bug did not exist with the sole purpose of obtaining licenses to cut down the forests." [Text] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 19 Sep 80 pp 1, 7] 9661

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## BRIEFS

NGHIA BINH RICE INFESTATION--One of the reasons why the recent rice crop in Nghia Binh has been heavily damaged by army worms is that production organizations continued to transplant obsolescent seeds, and were reluctant to switch to new highly pest resistant varieties. Nghia Binh authorities have mobilized the people to scrap these obsolescent and unsuitable seeds, and to sow-transplant 60 percent of the forthcoming winter-spring acreage with new highly pest resistant seeds. Provincial and district symposia were held to discuss the use of new seeds, and ways to prevent and treat pests right at the outset of the production season. Technical training courses were organized. A province-wide system for selecting, nursing and handling the new seeds has been set up. The Plant Seeds Corporation has planned the purchase of 1,500 tons of new rice seeds. Nearly 200 agricultural cooperatives have formed special teams to handle the new varieties, and also to look into the production units' compliance with the seedlings transplanting technique. [Excerpts] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 30 Oct 80 p 1] 9213

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